

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 11, and 13-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 15 are amended, claim 11 is canceled, and claim 16 is newly presented. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, for 1) allegedly not having support in the specification for the θ axis being a yaw axis perpendicular to a rolling axis of the attaching roller, and 2) it allegedly being unclear as to what is meant by that terminology in the claim. Applicants presume the Examiner is responding to Applicants' use of the term "yaw," which is not used in the textual portion of the specification. Applicants respectfully note, however, that Fig. 2b illustrates a θ axis of rotation. See the curved arrow. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended claim 15 to clarify or define what is being referred to as the θ axis. Applicants respectfully submit that this overcomes the rejection and therefore respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Osakura et al. (U.S. Patent 5,781,288) in view of Wreede (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,516), Cappa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,832,785), the collective teachings of Umebayashi et al. (JP 3-93528, abstract) and Mikata et al. (JP 3-257044, abstract), Ozawa et al. (JP 6-29332, written translation), and Scholz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,871). The Examiner notes with respect to claim 11 that "Ozawa teaches moving the roller along the Y-axis to a position and rotating the roller along the surface of the article." Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations previously recited in claim 11 (and claim 11 is accordingly canceled), with those limitations being revised to specify that the attaching roller is moved and/or rotated along at least a pair of the X, Y, Z and θ axes. In Ozawa et al., in contrast, the roller only moves up and down along a single axis, as noted by the Examiner. Given the application for the assembly in Ozawa, there would have been no motivation or reason to revise that teaching to provide a roller that moves and/or rotates along at least a pair of X, Y, Z and θ axes, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants

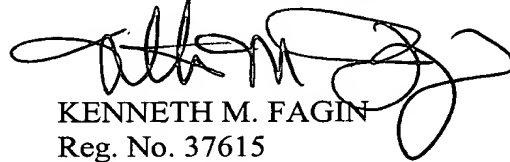
respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of references and therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

New claim 16 recites that the attaching roller is moved and/or rotated along at least X, Y, Z, and θ axes, as described, for example, at page 8, lines 5-13 of the application. Applicants respectfully submit that there is even less suggestion for such a configuration in the Ozawa reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 16 is even more clearly allowable over the combination of references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and timely notice to that effect is respectfully request.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth M. Fagin', is written over the printed name and registration number.

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